

A-Scientist or Aristocrat?

Whom Did the

CIC Colonel's Version Differs
From Stringfellow's Epic Story

By GUY RICHARDS

Since publication in the Hearst Newspapers of three articles by U. S. Representative Douglas R. Stringfellow (R-Utah) on the wartime snatch from Germany of atomic scientist Otto Hahn, a new version has been added to the already epic story.

The question now was: "Who kidnapped whom?"

From California and New York came another chronicle of Hahn's delivery to the Allied side—an event which Springfellow said took place in the Fall of 1944.

This new version has the German physicist being brought by jeep to Heidelberg during a rainstorm in April, 1945, having been captured by a team of American counter-intelligence agents working ahead of advancing French forces and the 6th Corps near the Necker River.

"I believe, but I'm not sure, that Dr. Hahn was in the group that I later took by car to Paris," said Col. Richard C. Ham, prominent San Francisco attorney, and in 1945 operations officer of the CIC teams involved.

So confusing were the facts from the perspective of 11 years however, that not even the planning officer was certain of the moves.

To these versions another was added.

It was the definite possibility that the man sprung by Springfellow's OSS team that parachuted near Nuremberg in 1944 was another by the same man—Ferdinand and Kurt Hahn, pro-Allied German aristocrat and illegitimate son of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand who was murdered at Sarajevo in 1914.

ON PLANNING BOARD.

It came from John C. Wiley of Washington, D. C., now waiting reassignment from the U. S. Foreign Service after completing a tour of duty as Ambassador to Panama. He was on the OSS planning board at the time of the 1944 mission. He said:

"I recall that Kurt Hahn had been of great help to the OSS.

"I was on the planning side, in OSS. Only the operational people could confirm my un-

certain memory as to whether Kurt Hahn was taken out of Germany at that time, but there is a persistent little cell in my brain somewhere that keeps on telling me he was."

The nationwide telephone search for the operational people will be described presently.

"MORE INTRIGUED."

Back in Washington from a weekend trip to Seattle, Stringfellow, a paraplegic from his World War II wounds, said yesterday:

"I am perplexed and more intrigued than ever to find out who it was we parachuted into Germany to get.

"As I stated in my story, we were never told at the time who we were after.

"But I remember very well that an OSS or G-2 security team of two men visited me in Halloran Hospital, at Staten Island, where I was recovering from wounds and gangrene, to see to it that I abided by wartime security regulations regarding the missions I had been on.

"We conferred at great length. Toward the end of that session, I expressed a desire to know who was the subject of that German delivery mission. I can't remember now whether I said Otto Hahn first or whether they did. I only know they confirmed that's who it was.

"It may have been a cover—after all, I was only a private in the Army. Or it may be that they meant Kurt Hahn when they said Otto Hahn.

"I have no reason to doubt Col. Ham or the San Francisco story. I know he is reporting what he knows. But now it has become a real mystery and I'm determined to track it down."

With a few tips from Stringfellow, this reporter launched a nationwide search for the persons

U. S. Steel Sees
80% Operations

U. S. Steel Corp. will operate at 80 per cent of the new capacity for the first half of the year, Chairman Benjamin F. Fairless predicted yesterday. This rate is equivalent to 86 per cent on the old basis.

"I do not feel justified in going beyond the first half," he said. "Not that I am discouraged about the year as a whole. Quite the contrary. I think we are going to have a good year."

Fourth-quarter earnings were \$56,012,628, equal to \$1.90 a share, vs. \$48,126,916, or \$1.60, in the last quarter of 1952. For 1953, net was \$222,735,656, or \$7.56 a share, vs. \$143,687,746, or \$4.54, in 1952, when a strike curtailed operations.

VOTES 75-CENT DIVIDEND.

Directors declared the 75-cent quarterly dividend, payable March 10 to holders of Feb. 5.

Federal taxes on Steel's 1953 income was estimated at \$325 million vs. \$117 million in 1952.

Shipments in 1953 reached a record of 25,090,789 net tons vs. the previous record of 24,626,008 tons in 1951 and 21,133,166 in 1952.

For the final quarter of 1953, shipments totaled 6,139,666 net tons, also a new record, vs. 6,626,668 tons in the fourth quarter of 1952.

AVERAGE OUTPUT 97.8%.

Chamber of Commerce, would remember if I identified the unknown person as one who spoke at the Mile High Club banquet last November.

I called Cal Snelder. Right away he identified the man we were after as James Grafton Rogers, a retired lawyer of Georgetown, Colo., and chairman of the OSS planning board during World War II.

Then I called Rogers. Said he:

"Yes, I remember meeting Springfellow after the war. But I couldn't, without refreshing my memory and looking up the papers, identify the mission he was on.

"You see, in the Summer of 1944, I was succeeded as chairman by Hugh Wilson (Hugh Wilson, prewar U. S. Ambassador to Germany who died in 1946), and though I continued to work for the OSS, I was not

CPYRGHT GRIN ANI



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